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Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Paul K. Meeker Confirmation No. 5119
Serial No.: 10/649,026 Examiner: Chin Shue, Alvin C.
Filed: August 27, 2003 Art Unit: 3634
For: Foldable Step Ladder With Leg Aligner and Handle

RESPONSE TO 12 MAY 2005 COMMUNICATION

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the 12 May 2005 communication noting that applicant's amendment filed 02 February 2005 did not fully respond to the rejection of claims 6, 7 based on Giezendanner.

Claim 6, and dependent claim 7, were rejected as anticipated by Giezendanner (U.S. Patent No. 4,448,282). Giezendanner does not disclose a step ladder comprising a frame ... alignment means for aligning the front leg and the rear leg when the frame arrives in the collapsed position following pivotable movement of the rear leg relative to the front leg from the opened position to the collapsed position, and a lock...as recited in claim 6. Giezendanner has straps 5 and plates 7 as the alignment structure. The alignment structure does not perform the same function, in the same way and have the same result as, and is not equivalent to, applicant's disclosed alignment means. See for example Figs. 6 and 7 and the alignment guides 70 discussed in the present specification.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims (Nos. 1-9 and 11-17) are in condition for allowance and such action is, respectfully, requested.